

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6213
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2002
MID-DAY-MEAL SCHEME
C. SREENVAASAN;NAMDEO HARBAJI DWATHE

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of States have requested the Union Government for financial assistance in order to provide cooked hot meals to all scheduled caste students under Mid Day Meal scheme;
- (b) if so, the details of such proposals received from each State and the total finances required to cover all the States which have sent proposals and demanded financial assistance in this regard; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) : Pursuant to the orders of the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India dated 28.11.2001 in WP(C) No. 196/2001, a number of States have sought financial assistance from this Ministry to meet the conversion cost to provide a cooked meal under the National programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-day Meal Scheme).

The scheme covers all children studying in primary classes (I-V) in Government, Government aided and Local body schools. Under the scheme, Government of India provides foodgrains free of cost and admissible transportation charges.

(b) : As per available information, 13 States and 2 Union Territories have requested for financial assistance from Government of India.

(c) : The Government has already conveyed to the States/UTs that under the scheme the cost of conversion of foodgrains into a cooked meal is to be borne by the States/Implementing Agencies. It has been explained to States/UTs that it would not be possible to provide additional funds to cover the conversion cost for preparing cooked meals unless adequate funds are made available for the scheme under the 10Th Plan.